

Water Quality Advisory Group
October 13, 1999
Room 1319

Minutes

Board members present:

John Fekete, Tom Anderson, John Wilkins, Senator Gard, Melanie Darke (for Tom McKenna) and Dan Cole, Dave Wolkins, Rae Schnapp, Mike Jordan, Beth Admire, Bowden Quinn, Bill Beranek and Ron Wukasch.

Audience:

Claudio Ternieden, Maggie McShane, Kari Simonelic, Mary Ellen Gray, Bill Hayden, Bob Johnson, Neil Parke, Mark Shere, Tonya Galbraith, Mary Uhler, Dave Perkins, Bill Hayden, Patrick Bennett, Vince Griffin and Glenn Pratt.

Introductions

John F: We need to review the list of definitions. Also, the Department of Commerce will give their presentation in December. We will focus on Special Designations and Anti-degradation.

Kari: Review of Anti-degradation Tiers, Types of Impairment and Definitions.

Bowden: Impaired waterbodies are the issue here. Anti-degradation - impairment and degradation are reversed. Anti-degradation definition is hard - caused by degradation - weighted toward degradation. Harm should be environmental, social, economic.

Kari: yes

Tom A: Statutory and guidance basis for anti-degradation.

Kari: Drew from Clean Water Act - guidance from EPA and our own information. We can send out background on these definitions to group.

Tom: It is important to know time period.

Bill B: Concept before 1972 - enforceable permit. Anti-degradation was never developed.

John W: There is a difference between use designations and special designations. There is flexibility from the federal government for special designations but none on use designations.

Bill B: Other states have specified uses.

Rae: Special designation vs. use designation - special designation called exceptional use but not use designation under Tier 1. Protect existing uses.

Bill B: The chart is pollutant specific.

Rae: High quality water - anti-degradation allowed as long as protecting use. Outstanding State Resource Water (OSRW) is open to debate.

John W: How is this defined in Indiana?

Matt: Data is collected across the State - Fixed Station Monitoring. Collection is complete this year. Now we analyze the data.

John W: What percentage of the streams have been analyzed within the last five years?

Matt: We have data back to the 1970's - approximately 3/5 of the State is complete.

Bill B: Point source discharge for permit will have to do sampling.

John F: Questions from the group? Comments from audience?

Comments from audience

Glenn: water quality problems are in tributary streams - need to focus on these.

Bill H: Existing uses eliminated through process? Fishing - existing use? Must protect existing use. Is subsistence fishing an existing use?

Kari: yes

Bob: Tier 1 anti-degradation - across the board to all waters with a ceiling of protection. Nothing to do with impaired or not impaired. Tier 1 should be all waters. There is nothing in federal or state regulations regarding special designations. There is nothing in the federal regulations regarding OSRW either.

John F: Review of revised goals. Comments?

Bill B: We put together solutions as best we can figure. Two types of waters for special designation:

- waters federal requirements referred to as “pristine”
- OSRW are special because of symbolism which is not related to quality.

Tom: Term “pristine” causes concern. There is nothing in the guidance that references “pristine”. Pristine is not a standard.

Bill: This sits on top of all other waters. All must meet standards and anti-degradation. These would be on accelerated path. This doesn't change any commitments to other waters.

Rae: Priority waters equals OSRW. Proposed concept that allows flexibility. Prioritizing waterbodies and working toward improvement.

Bill: This is more of a watershed approach.

John F: IDEM has this responsibility.

Bill: Needs legislative commitment.

John F: What do we mean by degradation and anti-degradation? These are the questions we need to address.

Ron W: Classification system - what triggers identification?

Rae: Much of this was addressed in Triennial Review and Water Quality Standards in 1989. How do we deal with OSRW? We have done prioritization, now we need to decide what we do with them?

Tom: How address impairments? TMDL process.

Matt: Explanation of TMDL process.

John F: Where are we? Review this document, come up with ideas, etc. Please email comments, suggestions etc. to him and we will have a special meeting on October 22nd to discuss these comments. We will try to have these comments available before the meeting, but if not, we will have them by October 22nd.

Adjournment